

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING:

Please add the legend “Prior Art” to Fig. 1, as shown in the attached marked-up and replacement sheets.

REMARKS

The legend "Prior Art" has been added to Fig. 1. Headings were also added to the specification.

In section 5, the Examiner raises the objection that claims 15 and 17-29 are obvious in view of the combined disclosures of the applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) as shown in Fig. 1 of the present application and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0152072 to Guild. This assertion is respectfully refuted. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has improperly combined the prior art references.

In section 5(1), the Examiner argues that the subject matter of independent claim 15 is obvious if the optical cross-connect of the AAPA were to be combined with a particular selection of the switches from the multi-stage optical switching matrix disclosed in Guild, with the Examiner making corresponding arguments in section 5(8) against independent claim 23.

It is respectfully submitted that there would be no motivation for the person of ordinary skill in the art to select the particular portion of the OXC architecture shown in Fig. 8, and combine that portion in a particular way with the known optical cross-connect shown in Fig. 1 of the present application. There is no teaching within Guild to select the particular switches from the optical switching matrix shown in Fig. 8.

Further, Guild teaches a particular configuration of switches for the optical cross-connect, which Guild indicates is for achieving a specific purpose. The person of ordinary skill in the art would not arbitrarily choose to select two-thirds of the switches that form the Clos network within the OXC of Guild, for combination with the switching matrix of another cross-connect in a new configuration.

It is also submitted that the characterization by the Examiner of the Guild cross-connect shown in Figure 8 is incorrect. In particular, the Examiner asserts in both sections 5(1) and 5(8) that "it is obvious that the switch 402 and the switch in 410 together can be viewed as the third stage of the Clos network". This assertion is incorrect. This assertion goes against the explicit teaching of Guild, which indicates that 402 itself is a primary switching stage of the Clos network (paragraph [0061]).

Thus, it will be appreciated the present invention, as defined by the independent claims, is inventive over the combined disclosures of AAPA & Guild.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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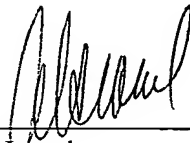
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MARKED-UP SHEET

